



Schools of Choice - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Information for 2020-2021 School Year

Grades 1-12 will be open for limited enrollment only. This means that if there are more qualified applicants than openings for any of these grades, a random-draw lottery will be held to determine which students will be accepted into that grade. A waiting list will be maintained for all remaining qualified applicants. If additional openings become available, applicants on the waiting list may be enrolled through the end of the first week of school. **Kindergarten** enrollment is not limited for next school year.

When can I apply for Schools of Choice?

Lakeview's Schools of Choice application period begins Monday, April 13, 2020. The deadline for completed applications is 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2020. Late applications cannot be accepted.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any student who does not live within the Lakeview School District boundaries but who lives within the boundaries of another Calhoun County public school district is eligible to apply. Students who reside in a district not served by the Calhoun Intermediate School District, who wish to attend Lakeview are not eligible to apply for Schools of Choice. To attend Lakeview, parents of these students must contact their resident district's Superintendent's office and request a "letter/form of release" from that district. If that school chooses to release your child, the letter/form must be sent to Lakeview's Superintendent's Office. Upon receipt of the release form, Lakeview officials will make a decision regarding acceptance. **Unlike Schools of Choice, the release process must occur on an annual basis.**

How/where do I apply?

During the Schools of Choice window, applications will be available in the **Superintendent's Office, 15 Arbor Street**, and online on the district website. All applications must be completed in full, signed by the parent/guardian, and returned to the Superintendent's office by the deadline or they will be considered invalid.

When will I know if my child is accepted?

Letters of acceptance, denial and waiting-list status will be mailed on or before **May 15, 2020**. Parents of elementary applicants may first receive notification of district acceptance, then notification of building placement at a later date.

If my child is accepted, am I able to choose which elementary school my child will attend?

On the application form, parents are able to indicate a building preference. The district attempts to place students in the school of preference when possible, but cannot guarantee placement at a particular school. Efforts are made to keep siblings at the same school when possible. You may receive notification of acceptance to the district first, and then receive notification of your child's specific building placement at a later date.

Are there any fees associated with Schools of Choice?

There is no fee/tuition associated with Schools of Choice application or enrollment.

My child was accepted through Schools of Choice last year. Do I need to reapply?

Your child's Schools of Choice accepted status remains valid through graduation provided his or her enrollment status is continuous at Lakeview School District. If your child withdraws from Lakeview and enrolls in another district (or if you move into the district and later move back out) their status as a Schools of Choice student is no longer valid, and you must reapply during the next application period. Lakeview is not required to retain a Schools of Choice student who has been expelled.

My child's sibling already attends Lakeview. Does that guarantee my child will also be accepted?

Siblings living in the same household as a currently enrolled student are not guaranteed acceptance; however, state law dictates that if a lottery is held due to limited space, siblings of a currently enrolled student receive preference over applicants who do *not* have siblings already enrolled at Lakeview.

How do you select which students are accepted?

A student with a previous expulsion or a student with a suspension during the previous two school years may not be accepted. Parents are required to disclose this information as part of the application process, and school officials also contact the previous school(s) of every applicant to verify accuracy before making any acceptance decision.

If a grade is open for **limited enrollment**, the discipline record (see above), as well as the number of available spaces, are factors. If there are more students who apply than there are spaces available in a particular grade, the law requires that acceptance be determined by a random-draw lottery. As allowed by law, students with siblings already enrolled at Lakeview are the first names drawn, followed by all remaining qualified students. A waiting list of all qualified students who are not accepted is maintained in the event that spaces become available prior to the beginning of school. The order of the waiting list is determined by the order of names drawn in the lottery.

Do you provide transportation for Schools of Choice students?

Transportation of Schools of Choice students to and from school is the responsibility of the parent.

My high school student is applying for Schools of Choice (or a Release, if living outside of a Calhoun Co. school district) in 10th or 11th grade and wants to participate in athletics in the fall. Is this possible?

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) rules and regulations state that once a student enrolls in a school to begin 9th grade, and *then* changes schools by choice (unless the change is to a residence within the Lakeview School District), the student is not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in the new school for *one full semester*. More information is available at www.mhsaa.com.

My child is already enrolled at a Lakeview elementary school and I would like him/her to attend a different Lakeview elementary school. Would I fill out a Schools of Choice application to make this request?

No, please fill out an "In-District Transfer Form," which is available at the Central Office, 15 Arbor Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015.

If you have further questions about Schools of Choice, please call 269.565.2400. Thank you for your interest in the Lakeview School District!